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**Happy Valentine's Day
from the Office of
Communications!**

Visit CFC Online for: [10 ways to show love for your child this Valentine's Day](#)



The Pipeline

"SENIOR CONNECTIONS" AMERICORPS

Owensboro, KY
Daily Point of Light No. 2094 – Feb. 12, 2002

The Green River
Area

Development
District "Senior
Connections"

AmeriCorps seeks to improve the quality of life for the at-risk elderly in Western Kentucky by providing in-home assistance in the areas of chores, home management, home repairs and caregiver relief in an effort to improve the quality of life for more than 300 seniors in the seven counties they serve. Their service in the community goes far beyond the normal 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. routines. The program does not require weekend and evening activities but all of the events have had a team of members responding to recognized needs. "Senior Connections" members are assigned to various sites in the counties of the Green River Area Development District. Each placement is in response to recognized needs of its senior population within a given community. The members have a role description, which outlines their service. The "Senior Connections" AmeriCorps members go far beyond that what that role description entails. They do not need to be asked – they just do what needs to be done. Examples include:

- The City of Livermore has a citywide potluck on Veteran's Day and 10 members went on a Saturday to set up the tables, roll silverware, serve the residents, wash dishes and take the tables down.
- Daviess and Ohio counties' "Repair Affair" each had a team of members respond on a Saturday to provide much needed repairs to the homes of low-income senior homeowners.
- A garden was planted for the residents of a local nursing home as well



as several special parties planned and implemented.

- The local Red Cross chapter provided additional disaster response training on a Saturday. Members arrived to assist and participate in the training.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsmen needed additional volunteers to visit and monitor the area nursing homes and members responded.
- Hospice had patients who needed respite care on weekends so their caregiver could attend church services and members assisted with this request.

On Jan. 3, 2000, a tornado struck Owensboro. By 7 p.m. that day, the "Senior Connections" members were helping the American Red Cross set up the shelter to care for those who were displaced as a result of the disaster. For the next three weeks, in addition to maintaining their clients, the members staffed the shelter, delivered meals on the Emergency Response Vehicles, sorted and delivered cleaning supplies, and assisted with damage assessment. The members were also instrumental in providing a Christmas party for the 300 children who literally had their Christmas "fly out the window" as a result of the tornado. The members picked up toys donated by area merchants, sorted them by age groups, staffed the party and helped with the cleanup. All of this was in addition to serving their senior clients.

Clients often call and give thanks to members who stopped by to check on them on a Saturday or came to the hospital to visit them or called to make sure they were all right in the evening. Clients have called the express gratitude for the groceries or rides to the doctor, or the fresh vegetables left on their porch. None of these activities are part of the "Senior Connections" members' service assignment. What is done is volunteerism from the heart.

This article can be found at the following web site:
<http://www.pointsoflight.org/dpol/dpolhome.cfm>

Cabinet Teams Needed to Bowl for Kids' Sake

By Anya Armes
Weber



The Cabinet for Families and Children's day at the lanes is coming soon. Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake is March 10-15. Quality Central teams are scheduled to bowl from 11 a.m. to noon on Friday, March 15, at Frankfort's Capital Bowl.

Sign up to bowl with a team from your office, or ask family and friends to join the fun. Teams must be of four or five people and should arrive at the lanes 15 minutes before their scheduled game time. Shoe rental is free. The bowling alley is at 80 Anderson Road, off US 127.

Arby's and Papa John's will provide free lunch to all bowlers, and door prizes will be awarded.

Bowlers raising at least \$65 in pledges will receive a Bowl for Kids' Sake T-shirt. Bowlers raising more will receive prizes like hats, free dinners and a chance to win a basketball signed by UK men's basketball coach Tubby Smith.

Bowl for Kids' Sake raises money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, which serves Franklin and surrounding counties. The program matches adults with children ages 6-13 who are from single-parent homes. "Big" siblings commit to spending three to five hours a week with their "little" siblings for at least a year.

Another way adults can volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters is to become a school-based mentor. "Bigs" meet their "littles" at school one hour a week to play sports or to help with art projects and homework.

To sign up your team to bowl, contact your office's Bowl for Kids' Sake representative or Cabinet coordinator Eboney Mayewski in the Office of Performance Enhancement at 564-0068.

For more information about volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters, call Bren Wright at (502) 875-1543.

Healthy Babies Outreach Begins in 20 Targeted Communities

CHS Communications

Local outreach efforts to educate women of childbearing age on healthy lifestyle choices begins in 20 communities across the state during February. This local health information initiative is part of the statewide Healthy Babies campaign coordinated by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development through the KIDS NOW initiative.

The 20 communities are:

- Boyd (Ashland)
- Boyle (Danville)
- Caldwell/Hopkins/Christian (Princeton, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, Ft. Campbell)
- Calloway (Murray)
- Clay/Laurel (Manchester, London)
- Daviess, Ohio (Owensboro, Beaver Dam)
- Fayette (Lexington)
- Floyd (Prestonsburg)
- Franklin (Frankfort)
- Hardin/Nelson (Elizabethtown, Bardstown, Ft. Knox)
- Jefferson (Louisville)
- Kenton (Covington)
- Marion (Lebanon)
- McCracken (Paducah)
- McCreary/Whitley/Bell (Whitley City, Williamsburg, Pineville)
- Perry (Hazard)
- Pike (Pikeville)
- Rowan (Morehead)
- Warren (Bowling Green)

The communities were selected based on birth statistics such as low birth weight and higher numbers of pre-term births. Training for local efforts will begin with volunteers this month.

Volunteers will then conduct community outreach, including setting up displays at public venues to provide

women with brochures on five key messages: good nutrition; the importance of folic acid; the effects of alcohol and substance abuse on pregnant women and early childhood development; the need for vision examinations for children by age 3; and general healthy lifestyles practices that lead to healthy babies. Information will also be available in local groceries, pharmacies, health clinics and libraries. The local campaigns are part of a statewide media campaign that began in January.

"This is just another component of our comprehensive effort to make sure that every child in Kentucky gets off to the best possible start in life," said Kim Townley, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. "The work of these local volunteers will truly be invaluable to us in getting out the message about behavioral choices that result in healthy mothers, and healthy babies."

Gov. Paul Patton proposed a 20-year plan to help Kentucky children get the best start in life and reach their full potential. It was approved unanimously by the 2000 General Assembly and is funded by 25 percent of Kentucky Phase I Tobacco Settlement funds. The Healthy Babies Campaign is a component of this initiative.



Automobile crashes are the number one killer of children 12 and under.

When a driver is unbuckled, 80 percent of the time children in that car are not buckled up.

For more information go to <http://www.kytc.state.ky.us/BuckleUpKentucky.htm>